WASHINGTON.

"LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND POREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1864.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

We vesterday briefly adverted to the miscon ceptions which obtain among some of our contemporaries with regard to the aspects of the Mexican question as treated by the Department of State under the different phases which that question has assumed since the French invasion. The attacks made upon the President and upon the Secretary of State, as the interpreter of the President's views and policy in this matter, are so evidently the Dayton as follows : offspring of ignorance as to the true relations of the

by a foreign Power. It is something more than silence in presence of the wrong perpetrated by France. His part in the transaction is an active one; and to it he has sacri-ficed not merely that neutrality which in any circumstances it was his duty to maintain between the beligerent States—
and on this obligation his correspondence with the British
Foreign Office may be advantageously consulted—but has
remeved the only difficulty which lay in the way of placing
a Hapsburg on the throne of the Aztecs. The French
Chambers, apprehensive of a war with the United States
to grow out of the Maxican business, have demanded the withdrawal of French intervention. In ordinary condi-tions the demand would have to be complied with; but the Emperor has only to communicate to the legislative body the position to which the American Government is to satisfy their scruples and enable him to pro

committed to satisfy their ecruples and enable him to proceed with his plans uninterruptedly.

"The whole energy of the State Department has been devoted to fostering the Emperor's plans, and thwarting the efforts of the Mexicans to protect themselves. The French, with the express permission of Mr. Seward, have drawn all the supplies they needed from the markets of New York and New Orleans, buying in competition with our own quartermasters. The Mexicans have been presented by orders directly emphasing from Mr. Seward our own quartermasters. The McKicais have been pre-vented by orders directly emanating from Mr. Seward from procuring supplies of any sort from the United States; and so zealous has the State Department been in this pa-ticular that arms passing through Rouse's Point on their way to Canada were seized for fear they might find their way to Mcxico; and at the request of the French Consul-at Sen Francisco the very blasting powder used by Ameriat San Francisco the very blasting powder used by American companies working in Mexican mines was seized and further shipments forbidden, lest it might be turned to war like pursones. Had the Mexican Government been per mitted to supply themselves in the United States, as the Iready have ended in the expulsion of the invaders : for Mexicans have had none out worthless cannon, and only a tithe of the muskets necessary to arm a willing people to defend the soil of the country. We repeat, there is too much evidence of Mr. Seward's active participation in behalf of the French."

These charges, it is proper to inform our readers, take their motive from an unauthentic rumor found in a London paper, to the effect that the recent visit of Gen. Forey to this city had for its object and result the foundation of an understanding be tween President Lincoln and the Emperor of the French that the former would not disturb the new Mexican monarchy if the latter would not change his attitude towards the Confederate States. And Mr. Seward, says the Advertiser, was the intermediary of this transaction, unless it be meant to charge that the matter was arranged between Gen. Forev and Mr. Seward, without the privity of the Presi-

But as nobody will be likely to believe the story of the London paper, published as it is without any pretence to authenticity, the Commercial Advertiser adventures the following declaration :

"But it may be queried possibly the story of the News is not true. Unbappily this solution is inadmissible. The statement is in too close analogy with the language of the diplomatic correspondence just published here, and in painful keeping with the entire course of Mr. Seward since the departure of the French expedition for Vera Cruz."

Let us then appeal to this diplomatic correspon dence for the purpose of ascertaining whether the writer for our New York contemporary could have possibly read the papers to which he refers when he risked this statement. And that we may take a comprehensive view of the political situation created by the French invasion, as its different phases passed before the mind of the Secretary of State, it will be necessary to place before our readers the state of the facts with which he was called to deal at different periods in the progress of .that

Referring to the second volume of the diplomatic correspondence we find Mr. Dayton writing as follows to Mr. Seward on the 9th of April last, when describing an interview with Mr. Drouya

"As to Mexico he said again their purpose was to take the city; to give some sort of order to the condition of things there, repry themselves for debts, expenses, &c., and then leave the country. That we might rest assured they were not going to charge themselves with the government of Mexico."

On the 24th of last April we find Mr. Dayton writing as follows to Mr. Seward, detailing a conversation he had had with Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys, in regard to the certificate given by Mr. Adams, our Minister in London, to Messrs. Howell & Zir-

man, (Mexican agents in London,) as a sort of safe conduct to a cargo freighted by the latter in England : " He wished me to say again to you that France bad or

purpose in Mexico beyond asserting ber just claims against ber, obtaining payment of the debt due, with the expenses of the invision, and vindicating by victory the honor of ber flag. He sgain said, expressly, that they did not mean to colonize in Mexico, or to obtain Searra or any other section permanently, and that all such pretences, propagated through the newspacers, were untrue. In return, I gated through the newspapers, were untrue. In return, I sesured him that all your correspondence with me, public and private, as-ured me that our Government had no pur pose to interfere in any way with the war between France

This statement was prefaced by a complaint on the part of M. Drouyn de l'Huys that our Government had shown undue severity towards the Emperor, by " forbidding the shipment of mules, or free laborers, or even of timber, for the use of the French in Mexico." The Advertiser says "the whole energy of the State Department has been devoted to fostering the Emperor's plans and thwarting the efforts of the Mexicans to protect themselves" Comment on the contrariety between this statement and of the representations of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs is needless.

writing to Mr. Dayton as follows:

On the 28th of last April we find Mr. Seward

"I do not care to speak often upon the war of Frances inst Mexico. The President confidingly believes that the Emperor has no purpose of assuming, in the event of success, the government of that Republic. Difficulties the exercise of self-government there has proved to be, it is peverthless quite certain that the attempt to maintain

foreign authority there would encounter insurmountable embarrassment. The country possesses immense, practically inexhaustible resources. They invite foreign lab r and capital from all foreign countries to become naturalized and incorporated with the resources of the country and of the continent, while all attempts to acquire them by force must meet with the most annoying and injurious hindrance and resistance. This is equally true of Mexico and of than a hundred years since any foreign State has successfully planted a new colony in America, or even strengthened its hold upon any one previously existing here. Through all the social disturbances which attend a change from the colonial state to independence, and the substitution of the democratic for the monarchical system of government, it still seems to us that the Spanish-American States are steadily advancing towards the establishment of permanent institutions of self-government. It is the interest of the United States to favor this progress, and to commend it to the patronage of other nations. It is equally the interest of all other nations, if, as we confidently believe, this progress offers to mankind the speediest and surest means of rendering available to them the natural treasures of America."

On the 8th of May Mr. Seward wrote to Mr.

offspring of ignorance as to the true relations of the topic in controversy, that a simple exposition of these relations, as disclosed in the diplomatic correspondence just published, will be a sufficient defence in the premises.

That our readers may know the nature of the misrepresentations to which we refer it is only necessary to quote the following paragraphs from the New York Commercial Advertiser of Monday last. We cite the gravamen of its charges apart from the idle speculations in which they are imbedded:

"The United States have not disclaimed, and can never under existing circumstances disclaim, the interest they feel in the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than they can relinquish or discown their sentiments of friendship and good will towards France, which began with their national existence, and have been cherished with growing earnestness ever since. When the two nations desire that the conflict may be brought to a specific of the gravamen of its charges apart from the idle speculations in which they are imbedded:

"The offence of Mr. Seward is something more than the sacrifice of the Monroe doctrine, which required him to protest earnestly against the invasion of this continent by a foreign Power. It is something more than silence in presence of the wrong perpetrated by France. His part. The Covernment of the United States have not disclaimed, and can never under existing circumstances disclaim, the interest they feel in the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfare, and prosperity of Mexico, any more than the safety, welfa "The United States have not disclaimed, and can neve

The Government of the United States having in the representations made to the Emperor of October 23d : Russia in behalf of Poland by the Courts of Paris. London, and Vienna, we find Mr. Seward, after "taking the instructions of the President." writing as follows on the 8th of May last, in explanation of the traditional policy of our Government in the matter of intervention, as being a sufficient reason why we must decline the invitation:

"It is true that Washington thought a time might con "It is true that Washington thought a time might come when, our institutions being firmly consolidated and working with complete success, we might safely and perhaps bearficially take part in the consultations held by foreign States for the common advantage of the nations. Since that period occasions have frequently happened which presented seductions to a departure from what, super ficially viewed, seemed a course of isolation and indifference. It is scarcely necessary to recur to them. One was an invitation to a congress of newly emencipated Spanish American States; another an urgent appeal to aid Hungary in a revolution aiming at the restoration of the ancient and illustrious independence; another, the project of a joint guarantee of Cuba to Spain in concurrence with France and Great Britain; and more recently, an invitation to a co-operative demonstration with Spain. an invitation to a co-operative demonstration with Spai France, and Great Britain in Mexico; and, later still, su France, and Great Britain in Mexico; and, later still, suggestions by some of the Spanish American States for a common council of the republican States situated upon the American Continent. These suggestions were successively disallowed by the Government, and its decision was approved in each case by the deliberate judgment of the American people. Our policy of non-intervention, strait, absolute, and peculiar as it may seem to other nations, has thus become a traditional one, which could not be abandoned without the most urgent occasion, amounting to a manifest necessity. Certainly it could not be wisely to a manifest necessity. Certainly it could not be wise departed from at this moment, when the existence of a local, although as we trust only a transient disturbance, deprives the Government of the counsel of a portion of the American people, to whom so wide a departure from the settled policy of the country must in any case be deeply interesting."

On the 21st of August last we find Mr. Dayton writing to Mr. Seward as follows :

"In this connexion I should add that Mr. Drouyn If this connexion I should add that Mr. Drough de I'Huys took occasion again to say that France had no pur-pose in Mexico other than heretofore stated; that she did not mean to appropriate permanently any part of that country, and that she should leave it as soon as her griefs were satisfied, and she could do so with honor. In the abandon of a conversation somewhat familiar I took occasion to say that in quitting Mexico she might leave a pupper behind her. He said no; the strings would be too experience in Algeria; that the strength of France was in her compact body and well-defined boundary. In that condition she had her resources always at command. There is much force in the suggestion, as applied to this Government, which is so emphatically a military power.

"You will put upon this conversation as to Mexico your

own construction, and draw your own inferences. It seemed to me, however, that Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys was disposed to avail himself of the opportunity to relieve, as far as possible, the suspicion and distrust which our Gov-erument might, from late events, naturally entertain of the purposes of France in that country."

On the 31st of August last it appears that M: Seward wrote to Mr. Dayton as follows :

"You will perceive that the course of events in Mexic is giving rise to much speculation, as well in this country as in Europe, and this speculation takes a direction which may well deserve the consideration of the Emperor's Go vernment, for it indicates a disposition in some quarter to produce alienation between this country and France This Government has said nothing upon the subject, except what is contained in a previous communication made by me to yourself, and it lends no materials or encouragement to the debate to which I have referred.

"I have told you in a previous despatch that the interests of the United States in Texas are not overlooked. have note to add that preparations have been made, which as I trust, will be effectual in establishing the national au

On the 14th of September last Mr. Dayton writes Mr. Seward the following report of a conversation he had had with M. Drouyn de l'Huys "In the course of conversation reference was made to

the almost universal report that our Government only awaits the termination of our domestic troubles to drive the French out of Mexico. This idea is carefully nursed and circulated by the friends of secssion here, and is doing us injury with the Government. The French naturally conclude that if they are to have trouble with us it would be safest to choose their own time. M. Drouyu de l'Huys referred to these matters, and said the Emperor had recently asked him if it were true, as the public journals alleged, that the United States had made a formal crotest asset that the United States had made a formal protest against the action of France in Mexico, and he had told him that the action of France in Mexico, and he had told him that, no such protect had been made. I told him that, so tar as I was concerned, I had received no orders to make such formal protest; that, relying on the constant assurances of France as to its purposes in Mexico, and its determination to leave the people free as to their form of government and not to held or colonize any portion of their territories, my Government had indicated to me no purpose to interfere in the quarrel; at the same time we had not at all concealed, as he well knew, our earnest solicitude for the well-being of that country, and an especial's ensitiveness as to any forcible interference in the form of its Government. He said these were the same general views held by you to M. Mercier, and reported by him to this Government. I told him that France must well un-

derstand that we did not want war with her; to which he auswered that she did not certainly wish war with us.

"When I referred to the rumored cession of Texas and part of Louisians to the Emperor, he, denying the fact, said these rumors were diabolical. He added that France wanted no territory there.'

On the 21st of September last Mr. Seward writes to Mr. Dayton as follows:

"The United States Government has hitherto practise strict neutrality between the French and Mexico, and all the more cheerfully because it has relied on the assurances given by the French Government that it did not intend permanent occupation of that country or any violence to the sovereignty of its people. The proceedings of the French in Mexico are regarded by many in that country and in this case. French in Mexico are regarded by many in that country and in this as at variance with those assurances. Owing to this circumstance, it becomes very difficult for this Government to enforce a rigid observance of its neutrality laws. The President thinks it desirable that you should seek an opportunity to mention these facts to Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys, and to auggest to him that the interests of the United States, and, as it seems to us, the interests of France herself, require that a solution of the present complications in Mexico be made, as early as may be convenient, upon the basis of the unity and independence of Mexico."

In our paper of Saturday last we quoted at length the still more significant representations of Mr. Seward to the same effect, made under the dates of September 26th and October 23d. And the despatch of the last date was written in reply

ton, in which the latter wrote as follows:

"I brought out your views, however, in the course of a general conversation about Mexican affairs. I asked of Mr. Drouya de l'Huys what character of test was to be adopted, with a view to learn the wishes of that country (Mexico) as to its form of government. He said that the vote of the entire country, and of all its departments, whether the French were or were not in their possession, would be taken, and if upon its registries it should appear that a large majority of the whole population (Spanish and Indian) were favorable to a monarchical form of government, he supposed that would be sufficient. He thought there would be no difficulty in applying this test, and showing a large numerical majority in favor of the Archduke, and that form of government.

"Mr. Drouya de l'Huys went on to say that the dangers of the government of the Archduke would come principally from the United States, and the aconer we showed ourselves satisfied, and manifested a willingness to enter into peaceful relations with that government, the sconer would France be ready to leave Mexico and the new government to take care of itself, which France would, in any event, do as soon as it with propriety could; but that it would not lead or tempt the Archduke inte difficulty, and then desert him before his government was settled. He added that France could not diffinat. He said that the early acknowledgment of that Government by the United States would tend to shorten, or perhaps, he said, to end all the troublesoms complications of France in that country; that they would thereupon quit Mexico.

"I told him that, without having any authority from my Government to say so, I should scarcely suppose that France, under the circumstances, would expect the United States to make haste to acknowledge a new monarchy in Mexico, but I would report his views to the Government at home; not suggesting, however, that any answer would be given. In the course of conversation, he took occasion again to repeat, volunt

to that of distant European countries, and that France, at her great distance from the scene, would not be guilty of the folly of desiring or attempting to interfere with us."

It will be remembered that in his reply to the suggestion of the French Government urging an early recognition of the new monarchy in Mexico, been invited by the Government of France to join Mr. Seward wrote as follows in his note of last

> "It is proper that Mr. Drouyn de l'Huye should be informed hat the United States continue to regard Mexico as the heatre of a war which has not yet ended in the subversion of theatre of a war which has not yet ended in the subversion of the Government long existing there, with which the United States remain in the relation of peace and sincere friendship, and that, for this reason, the United States are not now at liberty to consider the question of recognising a Government which, in the further chances of war, may come into its place. The United States, consistently with their principles, can do no otherwise than leave the destinues of Mexico in the keeping of her own people and recognise their sovereignty and independence in whatever form they themselves shall choose that this sovereignty and independence shall be manifested."

It is important to note, at this stage of our review, that when the French Government suggested to the United States Government a recognition of the proposed Empire in Mexico, Gen Banks was at New Orleans, the whole of Texas was in the possession of the insurgents, and every attempt that had been previously made to raise the national banner in that quarter had failed, while Mr. Slidell was understood to be negotiating for the sale of Texas to Louis Napoleon. And, under these conditions of the case, it is thought by some infor nation on the subject, it is not for the want reflecting men that this Government acted more of light, but of eyes to read the record that has wisely in sending Gen. Banks to regain Texas and been plainly set before the country. And we in avoiding threats, while informing the Enperor greatly mistake the judgment of the people if they that his war against Mexico was not yet end d. do not estimate at their proper value the wisdom than it would have done by threatening that, after of complain's which, as now directed against the our war should be over, we would then proceed to prudential policy pursued by the State Departdrive out any Government that the Mexican pecple, "by free and universal suffrage," might have set up in the mean time.

of Texas any more safe or certain, though it is made perfectly plain by the representations of Mr. Dayton that the emissaries and sympathizers of the discretion to avoid. It will be remembered that on the 14th of September last Mr. Dayton wrote that the idea was " carefully nursed and circulated by the friends of secession" in Paris that our Government "only awaited the termination of alleged designs of France in Mexico, while we were our domestic troubles to drive the French out of Mexico;" and he added that if such appeared to fere in our domestic difficulties. be our game, the French naturally concluded that in such a case it "would be safest to choose their own time." We can well understand why it should have been the policy of the sesessionists in Paris and elsewhere to ascribe such a blundering purpose to our Government. Hoc Ithacus velit, et nagno mercentur Atridæ. But how any sensible friend of the Government should make it a ground of reproach to the Secretary of State that he failed o fall into such a trap passes our comprehension

When Gen. Banks had effected a successful anding and occupation upon the Rio Grande, we find Mr. Seward, on the the 23d of November last. writing to him as follows, after directing him "to avoid any departure from lawful neutrality and any unvecessary and unlawful enlargement of the preent field of war :"

"But at the same time you will be expected to observe "But at the same time you will be expected to observe military and political events as they occur in Mexico, and to communicate all that shall be important for this Government to understand concerning them. It is hardly necessary to say that any suggestions you may think proper to give for the guidance of the Government in its relations towards Mexico will be considered with that profound towards Mexico will be considered with the profound to the respect which is always paid to the opinions which you express. In making this communication I have endeavored to avoid entering into the sphere of your military operations, and to confine mysel' simply to that in which you are in contact with the political movements now going on in Mexico."

And to Mr. Corwig, our Minister in Mexico, the Secretary of State, as late as the 23d of last December, only a month ago, wrote as follows :

"In reply to an inquiry contained in your despatch, I have to inform you that in the absence of further instructions from this Department, you will be expected to remain in the same relations as now towards the Government of the United States and Mexico. If for any cause your residence in the city of Mexico shall become intolerable or seriously inconvenient, you will be at liberty to rable or seriously inconvenient, you will be at liberty to resort to any other part of the country or to return to the United States. No contingency is now anticipated in which you will be expected to address yourself to any other Government than the one to which you are accredited."

In the face of such representations, and of such positions taken by the Secretary of State in the management of this correspondence, the reader can see how unfounded are the strictures to which we adverted at the opening of this article. The best confutation of such strictures is found in the recital of the papers themselves, without note or

Another New York paper, in commenting on what it conceives to be the attitude of our Government towards that of France-we aliude to the Evening Post, in its number of Monday lastholds the following language :

"All that our Government had to say to France was "All that our Government had to say to France was this: 'We promise no acquiescence in the usurpation of which you have been guilty in Mexico. We know that you would not have ventured upon it had it not been that we were already occupied in putting down a formidable rebellion which you supposed would require the utmost of our resources. We distain to purchase of you that respect to the obligations of neutrality which you ought voluntarily to observe. We say to you, as we say to England: If you violate these obligations we shall know how to protect ourselves, and if a war follows, upon you be the

to a despatch of the 9th of October from Mr. Dayton, in which the latter wrote as follows:

"I brought out your views, however, in the course of a
general conversation about Mexican affairs. I asked of

Well, what less than this has our Government aid in the subjoined extract from the despatch of Mr. Seward, addressed to Mr. Dayton under date of September 26, 1863, quoted by us at greater length a few days ago? The Secretary then wrote

"While I cannot confess to a fear on the part of this Government that any one or all of the maritime Powers combining with the insurgents could overthrow it, yet it would have been manifestly presumptuous, at any time since this distraction seized the American people, to have provoked such an intervention, or to have spared any allowable means of preventing it. The unceasing efforts of the is Department in that direction have resulted from this ever-present consideration. If in its communications the majestic efforts of the Government to subdue the insurrection, and to remove the temptation which it offered to foreign Powers, have not figured so largely as to impress my correspondents with the conviction that the President relies always mainly on the national power, and not on the forbearance of those who it is apprehended may become its enemies, it is because the duty of drawing forth and directing the armed power of the nation has rested upon distinct Departments, while to this one belonged the especial duty of holding watch against foreign insult, intrusion, and intervention."

"This Government believes that foreign resistance, or at-"While I cannot confess to a fear on the part of this

"This Government believes that foreign resistance, or at "This Government believes that foreign resistance, or attempts to control American civilization, must and will fail before the cearcless and ever-increasing activity of material, moral, and political forces which peculiarly belong to the American continent. Nor do the United States deny that, in their opinion, their own safety and the cheerful destiny to which they aspire are intimately dependent on the continuance of free republican institutions throughout America. They have submitted these opinions to the Emperor of France, on proper occasions, as worthy of his serious consideration in determining how he would conduct and close what might prove a successful war in Mexico. Nor is it necessary to practice reserve upon the point that if France should, upon due consideration, determine to adopt a policy in Mexico adverse to the American opinions and sentiments which I have described, that policy would probably scatter aceds which would be fruitful of jealousies which might ultimately ripen into collision be ealousies which might ultimately ripen into collision be ween France and the United States and other American Republica"

"We are not unobservant of the progress of events

"We are not unobservant of the progress of events at home and abroad; and in no case are we likely to neglect such provision for our own safety as every sovereign State must always be prepared to fall back upon when nations with which they have lived in friendship cease to respect their moral and treaty obligations. Your own discretion will be your guide as to how far and in what way the public interests will be promoted by subin what way the public interests will be promoted by sub-mitting these views to the consideration of M. Drouyn do In the light of the copious citations we have

thus made from the documents which contain the full history of this question, and after the clear statement thus given of the position taken by the Administration on it, we may perhaps be pardoned in suggesting to our zealous New York contemporaries that when they call for "Congressional inquiry" into this matter it might perhaps be better to address themselves to a perusal of the papers already communicated to Congress before looking to the columns of the London Daily News for instruction in the premises. If there is any want of ment in this delicate complication, involve the approval of a course that would have precisely concurred with the most fervent aspirations of the It is not quite clear that such a threat would allies and agents of secession in Paris. By being have made Gen. Banks's landing and occupation less prudent the Secretary of State might perhaps have made Mr. Davis, in Rechmond, Mr. Slidell, in Paris, and the Editor of the Commercial Advertiser, in New York, all equally happy, but loyal citizens, who do not allow their seal to ourrun their secession in Paris were auxious to have our Go- discretion, may be permitted to doubt whether such vernment do at that time what some short-sighted a compound satisfaction might not have been purduty, of consistency, and of safety ran parallel with each other, it would have been a criminal blunder to have crossed all three by the adoption of any policy which contemplated actual intervention, or odulged in the threat of intervention against the at the same time protesting vehemently against the right of France or of any other nation to inter-

CONGRESS-TUESDAY.

Immediately upon the opening of the Senate, Mr. Bay-ARD, of Delaware, rose and referred to the fact of the doption of the new rule requiring Senators to take the oath prescribed by the act of July 2, 1862, and declared himself ready to comply with the decision of the body. Mr. RICHARDSON, of Illinous, said that he disapproved the policy of this test oath, but had no objection personally to take it. Both Mr. Bayard and Mr. Richardson then took and subscribed the oath. Mr. BAYARD addressed the Senate in regard to the course he had taken on the subject, saying that after reflection he had come to the onclusion that he had been greatly in error in his first etermitation. There was snother course open to him, and, after thirty years' service, his connexion with thir pody would soon cease. His objections rested on good stitutional grounds, but those who had taken this oath heretofore, he presumed, were satisfied of their duty in the premises. Those who did not know him might have supposed he had other reasons for making the contest and nviting the discussion which he had done. But he had ever made the opinion of others or popularity his standard of action. He went on to refer to military subversion in Delaware, and to give his views of the position of the country at this time, referring to his early declarations on he war, and the origin of and results that are likely to follow the great struggle under the influences by which it is controlled, regarding it as destined to lead to further dissensions and divisions in the country and a different character of institutions. He concluded by renewed intimations of his early resignation.

in the House of Representatives the debate on he joint resolution amendatory of the confiscation law eas continued by Mr. FERNANDO WOOD, who maintained that the repeal of a measure which had prevented a Presidential veto, and which was a part of the confiscation law, would be a gross violation of justice and right, so far as it attempted to deprive the heirs of persons attainted of treason of the fee of their real estate. He then proceeded to argue in favor of the appointment of commissioners to Richmond, and said that such a course was pursued during Shay's rebellion, the war of 1812, the whiskey insurrection, the Mexican war, and the Utah sturbances—the Government in these cases treating with those in arms. This subject was then laid over. The House passed the joint resolution of the Senate tendering the thanks of Congress to Majors Generals Hooker, Meade, Howard, Banks, and Burnside, and the officers and men under their command. Also, thanks to Cornelius Vanderbilt for the gift to the Government of the steam ship Vanderbilt. The House also passed the Senate bill sthorizing the Secretary of the Interior to admit to the Insane Asylum persons who may become insane in this District during the present war, and wan may be without the means of support. The consideration of the deficiency appropriation bill was then resumed.

THE PONS COMET OF 1810.

This body is approaching the earth with such rapidity that it will probably become visible to the eye by to morbecome visible to the eye by to morrow night. An opera-glass of moderate power will cerainly show it.

At 7 P M. It will be at an altitude of 460 above the por zon in a direction N. 500 W. It will be south of and below Beta Cassioper, which will then be some 69 dis-

The steamship Etos, from Liverpool on the 8th and Queenstown on the 7th of January, has arrived at New

very cold, and navigation at many of the northern conti-

ental ports had been stopped by the intense cold. The Schleswig-Holstein question continued to b citing, and there were increased apprehensions of an out break. On the afternoon of the day the steamer left Queenstown, however, the telegrams from Germany were less unfavorable, and a report had gained currency not only that proposals for conference had been agreed to by France and England, but there was reason to believe they would be accepted by the German Powers. The King of Denmark, who has been visiting the divisions of his troops, had issued an address to his army, and had ordered four teen thousand men of the reserve to be called out.

In the Corps Legislat.f on the 5th several men brought forward amendments to the address expressing greater sym-athy with Poland, and an opinion that it is expedient to recognise the Poles as belligerents.

The report of the committee upon the supplementary credits requested by the Government has been published. It concludes as follows:

"Our mission is to warn the Executive Power with affectionate respect and to hold it back upon the brink of dangerous entanglement. The best devotion is that which knows how to speak salutary truths in time of need. We are unanimous in advising that an end should be put to the Mexican expedition. Far be it from us to say at any price expression of this wish certainly responds to the general sentiment of the country, and we hink the Government of the Emperor will receive it with favor."

The committee unanimously propose the adoption of the

LATE FROM EUROPE.

By way of Halifax we have received three days' later news from Europe, brought by the steamship Canads, which left Liverpool on the 9th instant and Queenstown on the 10th. From Great Britain we have intelligence of the birth of a son to the Prince of Wales, and of the favorable condition of the mother and infant. Judgment was to have been delivered in the case of the Alexandra on the 11th instant. Dr. Turton, Bishop of Ely, died on the 7th nstant. From France we hear of the discovery in Paris of a conspiracy on the part of four Italians, whose object is not told. The conspirators were arrested, and at their esidence were found a quantity of gunpowder, poignards, revolvers, air-guns, and eight hand-grenades of the Orsini patt-rn. The Schleswig-Holstein question continues to ear a threatening aspect, and both sides were active in litary preparations. It is reported that the F-deral force in and upon the borders of Holstein numbered 60,000, and would soon reach 100,000. It was stated that Prince Augustenburg intended to declare Kiel a free port. The British Government had addressed a fourth note to the Federal Diet, urging a conference, and, upon the plea of protecting British interests, was about to dispatch a first of war vessels to the German waters. The Times regards the commencement of the campaign in Schleswig as almost certain within a short time.

THE MILITARY COMMISSION AT NORFOLK NORFOLK, (VA) JAN. 21 -The Military Commission which Gen. Wistar is President, now in session in the city, bids fair to well repay the Government all that it will soet, if nothing more, by the exposures it is making of shamefully fraudulent steamboat charters. There are new developments being made every day-among others the charter of the South America. Witnesses testify that she was more than twenty one years old when she was hired by the Government; that she was not worth more than \$20,000 of which more than half was in her engin. that she was chart-red some five months a \$400 per day, ea ning for her owners \$60,000; that when she went out of service her hull was so to tou that her one up to out and put into a new boat. A prominent stemboat owner while on the stand testifi d that a ship broker amed N. L. McCready had greater facilities and influence in chartering vessels to the Government, in New York in chartering vessels to the Government, in New York in any one class there. That in Philad-Iphia E. A. city, then any one else there. That in Philadelphia E. A. S. uder & Co. e.j. yed the monopoly, and at Fortress Monoroe there was a similar "ring." The commission exterted by the New York and Philadelphia brokers was never less than five per cent on the charter many I Co) was made to agree to pay a commission of fif y dollars per day before she could obtain Government m. loy.

She afterwar a encountered the Fortress Mooro "ring," and her owners nad to pay the same exorbitant tax of five end her owers has to pay the same excribing tax of five per cent on the sum for which she was chartered—we bundred dollars per day. One of the parties in this "ring" was a quartermaster's cierk, whose influence was such that he was paid the neat little commission of twenty-five dollars per day to secure the charter of the steamer Champion. Under this arrangement he pocketed the sum of \$2,500 in about three menths.

UNION RAID ON JAMES RIVER, (VA.) FORTRESS MONROE, JAN. 22, 1864

Hon Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War: Brigadier General Graham, by my direction, went with three armed transports, and a competent force, to the Penineula, made a landing in the James river, seven miles below Fort Powhatan, known as the Brandon Farms, and captured twenty-two of the enemy, seven of the signal sorps, and brought away ninety-nine negroes, destroyed 24,000 pounds of pork, large quantities of oats and corn, captured a sloop and schooner and two hundred and forty soxes of tobacco, and five Jews who were preparing to run of the strongest positions on the continent—of Lookout the blockade, and returned without the loss of a man.

BENJ. F. BUTLER, Major General Commanding

AFFAIRS IN THE REBELLIOUS STATES.

Under the head of "A Few Facts," the Richmond Whig of the let of January presents the following statement of the rebel condition :

"Three thousand men in Longstreet's corps are foot; Johnston's army is suffering terribly for want of blankets and clothing; Lee's soldiers are des itute of socks blankets and clothing; Lee's soldiers are destitute of socks and other necessary clothing; and the whole energies of the Confedersey are summoned to supply the demand. The prospect for clothing next year is dark and gloomy; it cannot be got through the blockade, and there are no materials in the home market. The sources both of leat there and wool are deminishing every month; the supply of food is equally scant; very little bacon is left; beef is going, and mutton would not feed great armies even could it be back the creater are failing and controlled. be had; the crops are failing, and prices constantly going up; besides, there is no labor, without which there can be production; the conscription is taking to the ranks all whites, and the negro will not work. Even if he would, he could not prevent famine, which would bring insurrection with it. Then, without crops, horses cannot be fed, and an army without horses is a man wi hout imbs. Even now, burses sufficient to serve the purpose of the ex sting army are obtained with the greatest d ffi-culty, so that it is utterly impossible to double the army and increase the trains, as some extravagantly talk of doing; still fur her, besides wagons and trains, mu hete, cannon, and ammunition must be had, and these it is not canon, and sammunition must be use, and these i is not possible to procure. There is now only a bare sufficiency of muskets and cannon to supply present needs; and as to ammunition, since Charleston and Wilmington have been closed, and the nitre beds of Tennessee torn from our grasp, the supply can never be more than equal to the de-mands of the present army."

SHORT CROPS IN VIRGINIA. Richmond Enquirer of January 12th says: "We The Richmond Enquirer of January 12th says: "We regret to learn that there is very little prospect of any considerable crops being made the year in several of the fertile counties in Southwestern V rgima. The largest farmers in this pertion of the State—Campbell, Kennoke, Charlotte, Bedford, &c.— are pretty generally furnished substitutes and devoted their time to the production of large quantities of meat, breads uffs, vegetables, and forage. In view of the late enactment, rendering them again liable to military duty, and the consequent impossibility of several military duty, and the consequent impossibility of arter dengt to their plantations, these men have, as a rule, herefug to their plantations, these men have, as a rule, herefug their field-hands to railroad or manufacturing companies, or sent them to the cities and towns to be there employed. No corn crop will consequently be made, and but comparatively a small extent of land has been put in oats and the consequently be made, and but comparatively a small extent of land has been put in oats and the consequently be made, and but comparatively a small extent of land has been put in oats and the consequently be made. What httle will be raised this year in those roductive regions will principally be under the superin-endence of the few old or disabled men, unfit for military ervice, and will hardly suffice for home consumption, leaving nothing for the support of the army, which has here-tofore drawn abundant supplies of provisions and forage ervice, and will hardly suffice for home cor

The Richmond Sentinel of January 12th says: "The new born year lowers gloomily. To the prudent ere appears cause for anxious solicitude, while even

herolam itself sees that the tug of war and orisis of the struggle is upon us, and that we must prepare curselves for the tremendous shock. We cannot contemplate the next and f. urth campaign of pending war without aducted. We shall be strongly pressed by the enemy. They are making busy preparations. They are buying mercenaries for the fight as men buy sheep for the shambles. They are paying bounties half of which the world never heard of before. They are spending money with a reckless profusion that contrasts strangely with their natural paretimony. Our coemies, too, will commence the next campaign with some advantages of pocition which they did not have in the beginning of 1863. They will begin at Chattanooga instead of Nashville, at Vicksburg instead of Memphis. herolem itself sees that the tug of war and orists of the

A PROTEST FROM GEORGIA

The Macon (Georgia) Telegraph has the following protest against the plan of Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, for filling the ranks of the rebel army:

" Senstor Brown proposes that every able-bodied man irrespective of age or occupation, be conscripted, Members of Congress, Senators, Governors of States, Judges, and the President himself not to be excepted Every body is to go into the army. Senator Brown admits that armies have to be fed and clothed, and his proposition armies have to be fed and clothed, and his proposition provides that after all the able bodied men are in the army, if the lame, the halt, and the blind are not sufficient to support the men in the field, as well as to carry on the thousand and one affairs of civil life, a sufficient number are to be detailed for this purpose from the army. But who is to make these details? The President, being Commander in-Chief, is the only one who can do so. What a beautiful system! The President of a republic will detail from the army the Cabinet, the Senators the Members of Congress, the Governors of States, the Judges, the farmers, the manufacturers, the editors, the merchants! If any of these gentry should do or say any thing displeasing to his Excellency, his detail is revoked, and he is ordered back to his company for his presumption.

HOW TO RAISE MEN.

The Atlanta (Georgia) Intelligencer has the following emarks as to the most effectual method of raising men for the rebel army:

ized world—the entire population of the country abandon-ing all civil pursuits and taking up arms. We are not blind to the importance of reinforcing our army. We feel the necessity, but believe that other measures can be adopted to perform the desired work. Congress has called adopted to perform the desired-work. Congress has called into service the seventy or seventy-five thousand ablebodied men who have put substitutes into the army. These, with the one hundred thousand now absent from their commands, are amply sufficient to meet all emergencies, and the civil pursuits of the country can still go on; for if interrupted any more than thry are now, learful hardships and sufferings will be the result. It may be said. hardships and sufferings will be the reaut. It may be said that getting the one hundred thousand men absent from duty is easier said than done. We will show a way to do it. Abolish the abominable practices of puni-hing men by branding in the forehead, wearing barred shirts, and putting them in the stocks. Remove from commant and reduce to the ranks those officers who are tyranuzing over their men and treating them, like brutes, and continued. their men and treating them like brutes, and cashier all those who, from their want of proper discipline a d loose treatment of their soldiers, about ely encouraged deseron, and are as much to blame as the de ion, and are as much to blame as the deserters. Litting be done, and then let the President haus a proclamation to all adders absent without leave to re unito their commands by a certain date or suffer the penalty of death, and as so may the day fixed has expired shoot every deserter. aught afterward. This will do more to reinforce the army than all the sweeping conscriptions.

GROWLS PROM SOUTH CAROLINA The Charleston Mercu y, in di-cuesing the new mea sures of the ebel Coogress, says:

P. positions to trample upon the Constitution under which the egustative and ex cutive branch s of the Consederate Government had their seats in Kichmond—to violate the oals a office and, under the pleasof necessity, without authority or law, and against State rights, to place all persons and all property and all theory under the control dictat rabip, may be thought by some to be frought with alley and peace; but it becomes the patriotic, intiligent, and uncertified representatives or States and propies to comp enend the true causes of our dang r, and to apply such coundres as the great legislative powers of the country ford."

NO PASSPORTS TO BE GRANTED

Mr Benjamin, the confederate Secretary of State, in & rmal notice dated the 31st ins aut, a ates that " no pa sert will be issued from the D partment of the San u ing he pending war, to any male citizen, unless the appl cant produce and file in the department a cert ficate rom the proper military authorities that he is not liable to cuty in the army."

From the Richmond Enquirer.

and it came to puse that the man of means and unto is bired serva t, go ye into the army, and take wi h thee bese shekels of gold and shekels of .iv r toa: I giv thee, for thou standest in my shoes. A d the man of little faith, who hired the substitute, opened a shop & 4 buildred per cent. Bu i oum to pass but the w of the nation arose and debated amit, g themselves wheher the principal and the substitute should not keep company together. And the wise mon pass d a bil making the substitute a nought, and sending their frends, the principals, to greet them in the ranks, with a did ket at the right shoulder shift then the principals wax dexceeding wroth, and straightway set about preparing to emigrate to another—yea, a better—country, beyond the Potomac. And the Israelites chapter to spoil the Egyptians, changing their trea ury i-sues into gold and their State promises into greenbacks, and forthwith took their departure, shaking off the dust of their feet against us. And of all their deeds, are they not record d in the books of the conscript officers, who search for them in vain?

From the Mobile Register.

In addition to two bundred thousand a ragglers it is demanded that nine-tenths of the producers be put in the field, and women, children, and dotards be left alone to children. and feed an army. In other words, we want every body to go into an army already naked, hungry, and ill-equipped and nobody to support them Again, as to the size of armies. Is it the number of men or the handling of hem that wins battles? Were Pemberton's men web fought at Baker's creek? The same number, or nearly the same, won the battle of Chicksmanga that were driven from one and Missionary Ridge. Minus Longatreet s corps Lee whipped Hooker at Chancellorsville; plus that corps with Jenkins, Jones and others added, he was repulsed at Gettyshurg. Fifteen thousand fighting men won the first battle of Manassas, and less than forty thousand schi-ved the victories of Shiloh and Murfreesboro. "More than forty thousand men have never, since the war began, been brought into action to advantage by · ither side. And n w we are called upon to believe that by mobs of raw recruits, half starved, and poorly equipped are to do next spring what veterans have not been able to do after three years of hard and repeated trials. What we want is he genius to conceive and the courage to dare—not unwieldly hordes and awkward squads, with nobody at home to support

From the Chattanooga Rebel.

We are inclined to believe that, if the unnecessary garisons were withdrawn from the towns and cities, where they are or little use, (except to duncitizens who are quietwalk ug the streets, and attending to their business, ly walking the streets, and attending to the our armies for passes,) that there would be as many men in our armies as most of our gen rais could manage. Every provest marshal at a rail oad stati n must have a guard sufficient to do picket du'y for a brigade. What earthly use they are no one can ree. That they are an insufferable annoyauce to the people where they are quartered no one can deny. Their officious intermedding with quiet citizen in a burlerque upon military ru e and an outrage upon civil rights, as intolerant as it is off usive and amonying.

THE CHARLESTON SUFFERERS.

The Yorkville (South Carolina) Enquirer of the 6th instant has the following article in reference to the suffer. ing condition of the people still remaining in the city of Charleston :

"We would call the attention of our people to the no-"We would call the attention of our people to the no-tice of Mr Robson, it to-day's paper, and hope it will meet with a prompt response. Surely, we can spare a fittle of what we have in support of our old city in the her heur of trial. Mr Robson informs us that he distress there is great—some ten thousand women and children being dependent on his exert in at a supply them with food. These women are not lying in idlences, but are engaged. These women are not living in idleness, but are in the arsenil ordernee, a d quarterm ster's depart and other avocations, all t ying to do what they can to aid our cause, and, at the same time earn a suppo puts it out of their power to do so, and the obj Robson's mission is to try and help t em by prosending to the city these supplies which would not otherwise I act them. The city has appointed a point committee, and no family is allowed to draw supplies of reshoung that they are in seed of tacm. Mr Kebs a informs us that he has met with great kindness on his mission and although he has tall. forms us that he has met with great kindness on his mis-sion, and, sithough he has full power to impress, he has not used it in a single instance, believing that the people would more cordially respond to the call when left to their own feelings of patriolism, and he is happy to say this has-been the case—nearly every one to whom he has appealed aparing a mething. Mr. Robson is buying the provisions he obtains at Government rates, and he will cheerfully give any information on being applied to."

CENTS! LOOK TO YOUR INTERESTS!-Call A and examine comething urgently i ended by every perto :: or ten samples sent FREE, by mail, for twenty cents,
that retails for two dollars, by R. L. WOLCOFT,
dec 22—wly No. 170 CHATMAN SQUARS, NEW YORK